



JewishGen Communities Database and Gazetteer

"How to" Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

March 2022

GOAL

This guide will teach you how to use the JewishGen Communities Database and Gazetteer to locate towns in Eastern Europe.

INTRODUCTION

The JewishGen Communities Database contains data on approximately 6,000 Jewish communities in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. The JewishGen Gazetteer on the other hand, contains over 1 million localities throughout the world. The Communities database contains more detailed information on entries than the Gazetteer does, but both are great resources to help you locate your ancestor's town – regardless of whether or not your ancestor was Jewish.

For this guide to be most useful to you, you will already need to know the name of the town that your ancestor came from.

HOW TO

In order to access the JewishGen Communities Database or Gazetteer, you'll first need to register for a JewishGen account. The account is free, with an option to donate to JewishGen.

1. To register for an account, go to jewishgen.org. In the upper right-hand corner, click on **Login to JewishGen**.
2. Underneath the boxes for login information, choose the option **I'm a New User and want to register**.
3. Enter your name, address, telephone number, email address, and create a password. Select your privacy options. After reviewing the note click the button **Register as a New JewishGen User**.
4. Upon completion of creating your account, you'll need to confirm your email address. To do so, click on the link found in the confirmation email.

Now that you've registered for a JewishGen account, you can use the Communities Database and Gazetteer as well as the other resources available on the site.

Communities Database

The Communities Database contains data on approximately 6,000 Jewish communities. Note that you should still check this database even if your ancestor was not Jewish. The town they

lived in may have had a significant Jewish population as well and could be included within this database. The Communities Database contains useful data such as jurisdictions, alternate names, links to resources and more! If you do not find your town in the Communities Database, try checking the Gazetteer (see the Gazetteer section of this “How to” Guide for instructions).

1. From the main page at jewishgen.org, click on **Login to JewishGen** in the upper right-hand corner. Login using your account credentials.
2. Hover your mouse over **Databases** and then choose the option **Town Finder**.
3. Use the box on the right side of the screen to enter your search terms and set search parameters.
 - **Search for Jewish community:** type the name of the town you are looking for into this box. Note that wild cards are not supported, but you can search for a town that starts with or contains certain letters by adjusting the search method box at the bottom accordingly. You must search using at least 3 letters (2 for exact spelling).
 - **Narrow the search by modern, inter-war, or pre-WWI country:** use this option to narrow down which country/time period your results come from.
 - **Show the distance in miles (or kilometers) from:** use this option to see how far away a town is from another location. You can search by:
 - **The capital city of the relevant country**
 - **Latitude/Longitude**
 - **Selected City:** This option allows you to select the country and then city. Note that only major towns or cities are listed.
 - **Search method:** Search method allows you to play with your search results.
 - **Phonetically Like:** this search method allows you to locate towns that exactly match your search term as well as those that are phonetically similar.
 - **Sounds Like:** allows you to locate towns that sound similar to your search terms.
 - **Starts With:** use this option to search for all towns that start with certain letters. You must use at least three letters.
 - **Contains:** use this option to search for all towns that contain a certain string of letters. You must search with at least three letters.
 - **Is Exactly:** this search option locates only towns spelled exactly like the search terms that you entered.
 - **Fuzzy/Fuzzier/Fuzziest Match:** fuzzy matching identifies entries that are similar but are not exactly the same. You can choose your level of fuzziness, but keep in mind the fuzzier you go, the farther from the actual search terms the result will be.
4. Once you have entered your town name and adjusted your search methods, click on **Start the search**. To practice, look for the town **Starokonstantinov**, which is today located in Ukraine. Search by modern day country of **Ukraine** and then choose the **Phonetically Like** search option.

- Search result(s) will appear in a tabular format. Be sure to look not only at the location names in the **Modern Town and Country** column, but the **Other Names** column as well. The **Other Names** column contains alternate spellings, as well as versions of the names in various languages.
- To view more information about a particular entry, click on the **Jewish star** to the left of each location's name in the first column. In this case, click on the **star** to the left of **Starokostyantyniv, Ukraine**.
- The entry page provides additional information about the location. See below for a description of important details on the entry page.

Alternate names: the town may have had a different name at the time your ancestor lived there. Use this section to explore other names, or versions of the town name in various languages. You can find the language in [brackets].

Modern spelling of the town name followed by the modern country it is now located in.

In this section you'll find useful links to the JGFF (surnames/town database) JewishGen projects, collections, records updates, Yizkor books, or other information.

Starokostyantyniv, Ukraine

Alternate names: Starokostyantyniv [Ukr], Starokonstantinov [Rus], Konstantin Yashan [Heb], Starokonstantynów [Pol], Olt-Kosntin [Yid], Staro-Konstantinov, Stary Konstantynów

Region: Volhynia

- [JGFF Town Search](#) (392 Matches)
- [JOWBR: Jewish Cemetery](#)
- [JOWBR Landsmanshaft: \(2\)](#)
 - [Montefiore Cemetery, Queens, USA](#)
 - [Staro Konstantinov Progressive Cemetery, West Roxbury, USA](#)
- [JewishGen-erosity Projects \(1\):](#)
 - [Starokonstantinov, Ukraine: Birth Records 1866 - 1916](#)

The jurisdictions section provides information on the name of the town, district, province, and country throughout time. For *Russian Empire* research, it's particularly important to pay attention to the **Before WWI** jurisdictions. The district is the uyezd (level at which taxation records are kept), and the province is the gubernia. The modern country will help guide you to the current location of records for your ancestor's town.

	Town	District	Province	Country
Before WWI (c. 1900):	Starokonstantinov	Starokonstantinov	Volhynia	Russian Empire
Between the wars (c. 1930):	Starokonstantinov	Kamenets-Podolski	Ukraine SSR	Soviet Union
After WWII (c. 1950):	Starokonstantinov			Soviet Union
Today (c. 2000):	Starokostyantyniv			Ukraine

Jewish Population in 1900:	9,212
Notes:	Ukrainian: Старокостянтинів. Russian: Староконстантинов. Yiddish: אַלט־קאָסטאַניוויץ 25 miles NNE of Khmelnytsky (Proskurov).

The notes section provides the names of the town in various languages. In this example, you can see the Ukrainian, Russian, and Yiddish versions. Knowing how the town is spelled in the alphabet of various languages can aid you in your research, particularly on non-English language websites.

Modern map and location coordinates. You can also view the location in Google Maps, or an interactive resource map that allows you to see available resources for the town and nearby areas.

A list of nearby Jewish Communities. This may be useful in locating records or determining the names of towns listed in records for your town.

Starokostyantyniv, Ukraine: 49°45' N, 27°13' E

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[View Larger Map](#)

☒ MapQuest
 ☐ Google Map

[JewishGen Resource Map](#)

Nearby Jewish Communities:

- [Kuz'myn](#) 7 miles WSW
- [Krasyliv](#) 13 miles WSW
- [Kulchyniv](#) 14 miles W
- [Pylyava](#) 15 miles SE
- [Hritsiv](#) 15 miles N
- [Ostropil](#) 16 miles ENE
- [Antoniny](#) 16 miles WNW
- [Yurovshchyna](#) 20 miles NNE
- [Nikolayev](#) 20 miles SW
- [Stara Sinyava](#) 21 miles ESE
- [Medzhybizh](#) 24 miles SSE
- [Khmelnytskyi](#) 25 miles SSW
- [Lyubar](#) 26 miles ENE
- [Chornyi Ostriv](#) 27 miles SW
- [Polonne](#) 29 miles NNE
- [Sudylkiv](#) 29 miles N
- [Nova Chortoriya](#) 29 miles NE
- [Novokostyantyniv](#) 30 miles SE

- [the JewishGen Ukraine Database for Starokostyantyniv / Starokonstantinov.](#)
- [the JewishGen website for Starokostyantyniv / Starokonstantinov.](#)







Additional information for Starokostyantyniv:

- [JewishGen Ukraine SIG](#)
- *Shtetl Finder* (1980), p. 39: "Konstantin Yashan, Starokonstantinov".
- *Encyclopedia of Jewish Life* (2001), p. 1237: "Staro-Konstantinov".

Direct links to databases containing Jewish records for this location.

Additional links that may guide you in your research. SIG stands for Special Interest Group, a group dedicated to preserving Jewish records for a particular area. Visit the SIG website for information about records and other resources.

- In addition to searching by town name, you can also browse by locations within a particular province or district. To do so, return to the main search page and type the name of the district or province into the search box. For example, try the district of **Kamenets Podolskiy**.
- When the search results come up, rather than clicking on the Jewish Star to the left of the entry, look at the jurisdiction columns labeled **After WWII**, **Between Wars**, and **Before WWI**. Jurisdictions within these columns appear in a town, district, province, and country order. Click on the blue hyperlinked district or province under the time period of your choosing to see a list of places included within that district. Using our example, click on **Kamenets Podolskiy** in the **Before WWI** column to see a list of localities included within that district. Note that these are not *all* localities within a district or a province, but rather, just those within the Communities Database.

Searching for towns in Kamenets Podolskiy District, Podolia Province in 1900					
Run on Thu, 17 Mar 2022 14:05:03 -0600					
Modern Town & Country	Other Names	c. 1950 After WWII Town / Country	c. 1930 Between Wars Town / District / Province / Country	c. 1900 Before WWI Town / District / Province / Country	# of JGFF Entries
 Kamyanets Podil'skyi , Ukraine 48°40' N 26°34' E 346 km SW of Kyiv	Kam'yanets'-Podil's'kyi [Ukr], Kamenets Podolskiy [Rus], Komenetz [Yid], Kamieniec Podolski [Pol], Camenita [Rom], Camenecia [Lat], Kumenetz-Podolsk, Kamenets Podolsk, Kamenets Podolski, Komenitz Podolsk, Kamenets Podilski, Kamenez Podolsk	Kamenets Podolskiy Soviet Union	Kamenets Podolskiy Kamenets-Podolski Ukraine SSR Soviet Union	Kamenets Podolskiy Kamenets Podolskiy Podolia Russian Empire	991
 Orynyn , Ukraine 48°46' N 26°24' E 350 km WSW of Kyiv	Orynyn [Ukr], Orinin [Rus, Yid], Orynin [Pol], Orinien, Orinik, Horynin	Orinin Soviet Union	Orinin Kamenets-Podolski Ukraine SSR Soviet Union	Orinin Kamenets Podolskiy Podolia Russian Empire	94
 Zhvanets , Ukraine 48°33' N 26°30' E 358 km SW of Kyiv	Zhvanets [Ukr, Rus], Zvantz [Yid], Zwaniec [Pol], Schwanec [Ger], Zvanitz, Zvonitz, Zwanitze, Zvanec, Zhvaned, Svaniecz, Shwanec	Zhvanets Soviet Union	Zhvanets Kamenets-Podolski Ukraine SSR Soviet Union	Zhvanets Kamenets Podolskiy Podolia Russian Empire	89
 Horodok , Ukraine 49°10' N 26°34' E 317 km WSW of Kyiv	Horodok [Ukr], Gorodok [Rus], Graying [Yid], Gródek [Pol], Gródek Podolski, Gorodok-Proskurovskiy	Gorodok Soviet Union	Gorodok Kamenets-Podolski Ukraine SSR Soviet Union	Gorodok Kamenets Podolskiy Podolia Russian Empire	45
 Smotrych , Ukraine 48°57' N 26°33' E 330 km WSW of Kyiv	Smotrych [Ukr], Smotrich [Rus], Smotritch [Yid], Smotrycz [Pol], Smotrytsch, Smotryc	Smotrich Soviet Union	Smotrych Kamenets-Podolski Ukraine SSR Soviet Union	Smotrich Kamenets Podolskiy Podolia Russian Empire	38
 Zarechanka , Ukraine 48°54' N 26°23' E 343 km WSW of Kyiv	Zarechanka [Rus, since 1944], Zarichanka [Ukr], Lyantskorun [Rus, before 1944], Lantzekronia [Yid], Lanckorun [Pol], Laskorun, Lantskorun, Zaricanka	Zarechanka Soviet Union	Lyantskorun Kamenets-Podolski Ukraine SSR Soviet Union	Lyantskorun Kamenets Podolskiy Podolia Russian Empire	37

Gazetteer

The Gazetteer contains over 1 million entries for localities throughout the world. It's a good place to check if you do not find your town in the Communities Database.

- From the main page at JewishGen.org, click on **Login to JewishGen** in the upper right-hand corner. Login using your account credentials.
- Hover your mouse over **Databases** and then choose the option **Town Finder**. On the left hand side, click on the blue hyperlink that says **JewishGen Gazetteer**.
- Use the box on the right side of the screen to enter your search terms and set search parameters.
 - Search for locality:** type the name of the town you are looking for into this box. Note that wild cards are not supported, but you can search for a town that starts with or contains certain letters by adjusting the search method box at the bottom accordingly. You must search using at least 3 letters (2 for exact spelling).
 - Narrow the search by country/region:** use this option to narrow down which country/region your results come from.
 - Show distance and direction from:** use this option to see how far away a town is from another location. The default is set to show in miles unless you change it to kilometers in the **Measure Distance** section. You can search by:
 - The capital city of the relevant country**
 - Latitude/Longitude**
 - Selected City:** This option allows you to see the select the country and then city. Note that only major towns or cities are listed.

- **Search method:** Search method allows you to play with your search results.
 - **Phonetically Like:** this search method allows you to locate towns that exactly match your search term as well as those that are phonetically similar.
 - **Sounds Like:** allows you to locate towns that sound similar to your search terms.
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 - **Contains:** use this option to search for all towns that contain a certain string of letters. You must search with at least three letters.
 - **Is Exactly:** this search option locates only towns spelled exactly like the search terms that you entered.
 - **Fuzzy/Fuzzier/Fuzziest Match:** fuzzy matching identifies entries that are similar but are not exactly the same. You can choose your level of fuzziness, but keep in mind the fuzzier you go, the farther from the actual search terms the result will be.
- 4. Press enter on your keyboard or click on **Start the search**. Search entries will appear in a table format. You are not able to click on an entry to view more information about it, but the gazetteer does provide the **location** name, **feature type** (populated place, landmark, etc.), **coordinates** (click on the coordinates to see it on a JewishGen interactive resource map), **Map** (links to Google Maps), **Country**, and **distance/direction from reference point** (reference point can be selected in the distance/direction section of the search page), and places within a **10-mile radius** (click on the blue circle to see nearby locations). Any entries that are also included in the JewishGen Communities Database will have a Jewish star to the left of the location name. Clicking on the star will allow you to see more information about a particular locality.

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! Click [here](#) to try out the Activity.